

# *Electrix* DANCE COMPANY

Eight Premieres  
Six Dancers  
Five Choreographers  
One Electric Flutist

*Lee McClure*  
*Artistic Director*

New Dance Group Theater  
305 West 38th Street, NYC  
May 18 & 19, 2007

Except where noted,  
All music composed and performed on the Electric Flute by **Lee McClure**

Lighting Design by Matt Ehlert

## *Lux Songo*

*Michelina Piazza, choreographer*

*Dancers:*

*Michelina Piazza — Alexandra Bayeva — Ruby Marez — Renee Ortega — Emily Vetsch*

*music samples:*

"Lux Aeterna" by Gyorgy Ligeti from CD: "Illumina" - Clare College Choir.  
Latin percussion from CD for "Salsa And Afro Cuban Montunos For Piano" by Carlos Campos

## *Cerulean Narrows*

*Ruby Marez, choreographer*

*Dancers:*

*Alexandra Bayeva — Renee Ortega — Michelina Piazza — Emily Vetsch*

## *Iberian Backbeat*

*Alexandra Bayeva, choreographer*

*Dancers:*

*Alexandra Bayeva — Michelina Piazza — Emily Vetsch*

## *Improvisation*

*Emily Vetsch, dancer*

## *Twice My Muse Was Real*

*Emily Vetsch, choreographer*

*Dancers:*

*Emily Vetsch — Michelina Piazza — Alexandra Bayeva — Renee Ortega*  
Guest soloist, *Jerami Kipp*

*Music: **piano** — composed, performed, recorded by Lee McClure*

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## *Lonely Woman New Orleans One Year Later*

*Work in progress — group choreography*

*music samples & quotes:*

"Electronic Wind" - electric flute - Lee McClure  
CD: "Tabla Beat Science" by Tala Matrix with Zakir Hussain  
"Lonely Woman" by Ornette Coleman  
"Latin 6/8 for 3 electric flutes" - Lee McClure

## *Hiphop Tabla Surrey with the Beatles on Top*

*Renee Ortega, choreography*

*Dancers:*

*Emily Vetsch — Michelina Piazza — Alexandra Bayeva*

*music samples & quotes:*

CD: "Tabla Beat Science" by Tala Matrix with Zakir Hussain  
"Day Tripper" bass line - The Beatles  
"Surrey With The Fringe On Top" by Rodgers & Hammerstein  
"Happy Birthday" - music by Mildred & Patty Hill - lyrics unknown

## *Litany For Jimi Hendrix*

*Ruby Marez, choreography*

*Dancers:*

*Ruby Marez — Alexandra Bayeva — Emily Vetsch — Michelina Piazza — Renee Ortega*

*music samples:*

Latin percussion from CD for "Salsa And Afro Cuban Montunos For Piano" by Carlos Campos



Reception to follow

## About Eclectix

After presenting the music of over 100 living composers since 1985, **Eclectix** has expanded into the field of dance. Artistic Director Lee McClure not only provides all the music but also dance, lighting and costume ideas which are developed by the choreographers. All five dancers are choreographers who work with an easy interchange of ideas. The aspiration of the Eclectix Dance Company is to present works in which the audience can see, hear, and feel the tension when both dance and music are created simultaneously in improvisation. This happens both as a short totally free piece and as sections in larger works that have set music and dance. Even for the pieces that are fully composed and choreographed, the music is constructed with easily performed contractions and expansions of phrasing that help propel the dancers' expression.

As the founding dance member Ruby Marez has aptly expressed the inspiration for the company: "We come from all walks of life and so does our dance — It's impulsive, it's instinctual, it's improv...that leads into bodily contact...that develops into choreo-graphy. While we present dark elements of our world, promises of a New day bloom from contact driven movement reminding us that connection is necessary for anything to blossom and exist."

Lee McClure created the Eclectix new-music concert series in order to specialize in presenting serious melodic and tonal music written by living composers of classical, jazz and crossover styles. The New York Times has called Eclectix "a group dedicated to presenting melodic music in the tradition of Debussy, Gershwin, and Ellington" and has written about Eclectix programming: "Most of this repertory grew out of a tonal, melody-accompaniment tradition, and a lot of it by way of American popular culture."

Previous concerts have presented the Eclectix Chamber Orchestra, the Gregg Smith Singers, "cello," the Saturday Brass Quintet, the Heavenly Band (Art Lillard's jazz big band), The Accidentals, The Paramount Brass Ensemble and ensembles led by jazz-greats Dick Hyman, Jane Ira Bloom, Jeremy Steig, and Bill Charlap. Besides presenting numerous chamber music concerts of emerging composers, Eclectix has presented the works of such notables as Dave Brubeck, Ron Carter, Meyer Kupferman, Ward Swingle, Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, and Toni and Gordon Parks.

Eclectix has encouraged the creation of new melodic music by presenting The Erik Satie Mostly Tonal Award. Receiving an honorarium and a performance, the winners have been the late great Earl Robinson (Seattle, WA), Allan Blank (Richmond, VA), Paul Safar (Cincinnati, OH), and Dr. Howard Buss (Lakeland, FL).

Lee McClure's *Electric Flute* is a silver flute with a pickup and microphone that are put through 12 guitar-pedals and a sampler. The foot-activated pedals give reverb, multiple repeating delays, chords, distortion, a range from the lowest to the highest notes of the piano, and pitch bending from one scale degree to three octaves. The sampler enables the live buildup of multiple layers of effects and/or melodies. For background McClure also uses pre-recorded drum tracks, music CD's, and his own layered electric flute music.

## *Meet the Performers*

**Ruby Marez** was the choreographer for "I Don't Wannabee a Wannabee," the musical by Suki Rae produced by the Writers Voice at the Westside Y in NYC. Ruby choreographed and performed the flamenco solo in "Faces of Love, East Meets West." She has danced in the Broadway Dance Center Showcase, the Improvisational Movement Troupe, and in 2004 she was a stepper in the Muhenberg Step Team. Her wide range of experience in dance includes Modern, Ballet, Tap, Flamenco, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Salsa, Swing, and improvisational styles.

In theater Ruby has performed in productions of "The Cherry Orchard" (Any), "It's Not You, It's Us" (Natalie), "How To Speak Woman" (Tabitha), "Moony's Kid Don't Cry" (Jane), and "Deus Volt" (Head Reader) among others. She is currently working in film and as a member in improv theater ensembles in Manhattan.

**Michelina Piazza** is a professional dancer, choreographer and instructor hailing from Lancaster County, PA. During her years in PA she had the privilege to dance and perform with Movement Laboratory's Youth Ensemble under the mentoring of Judy Williams Henry. Michelina traveled with The Youth Ensemble's in Good Will Thru Dance tours to Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria and Hungary as well as throughout Pennsylvania and Lake Placid, NY.

Michelina has her BFA in Dance from the acclaimed Boston Conservatory, where she performed Jose Limón's "There is A Time," "Missa Brevis," and "A Choreographic Offering," as well as Martha Graham's "Primitive Mysteries," at The Boston Conservatory Theater and at Hunter College's "Sharing the Legacy" concert in NY. She was also a featured dancer in "Bernstien's Mass" as a collaborative with the Music and Theater Departments at the Conservatory.

Michelina directed, choreographed and produced her original works in a senior concert entitled Communiqué du Tango on The Boston Conservatory Theater's mainstage. She also designed and arranged her own lights, costumes and music. Immediately following her graduation, Michelina performed the reconstructed works of Isadora Duncan, with Windhover Dance Company in Andover, MA. Since moving to NY in 2005, she has performed at such venues as The Times Square Arts Center, The 14<sup>th</sup> Street Y Theater, The Gershwin Hotel, and in the PMT Spring Showcase with Truth Dance Company, Neville Dance Theater, and as a member of Eclectix Dance Company.

**Alexandra Bayeva**, a native of Minsk, studied dance at the Belarusian State University of Culture. She has performed with a wide variety of dance companies in Belarus, where she choreographed as well as danced in folk programs, modern-folk, improvisatory works, as well as dance theater. She received her B.A. in Dance in 2004 and came to New York a year later. Her dances have shown at Dance New Amsterdam in their work-in-progress program. She currently dances with Eclectix Dance Company as well as with Mark Lamb Dance and Anabella Lenzu Dance.

**Renee Ortega** began practicing dance at the age of 6 years old, studying Dance throughout her secondary school and college years. Renee earned a BFA in Dance from Long Island University. Dance continues to be a personally significant and growing part of her life. In the recent past, Renee earned a degree as an Occupational Therapy Assistant and a second BS degree in Health Science. Dance recently reentered the forefront of her life through social and professional outlets that lead her to joining the Eclectix Dance Company. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with a group of talented dancers and musicians and would like to thank all of her family members and friends who have always supported her undying love and commitment to dance and the expression of self through movement.

Both a professional dancer and choreographer, **Emily Vetsch** has made her dreams a reality. She has performed and shown work in both the United States and Spain. Her dances range from solo to large group multi-media works. Thus far, audiences have coined her work as "detailed and imaginative."

Most recently Emily has produced, directed, choreographed for, and danced in the well recieved "A Muse, An evening of live dance and music brushed with magic," at The Gershwin Hotel in Manhattan. Shardash, a 15 minute abstract multi media dance theater group piece for 12 premiered last year at The Dance Theater Lab in Purchase, New York. Emily has had the opportunity to present her work entitled Delinquent Balance in Burgos, Spain; Ailey CitiGroup Theater in Manhattan; and The Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase, New York.

As a free lancer Vetsch has had the fortune of taking both character and dancing rolls under the direction of: Noemie LaFrance for her Agora 2 at the McCarren Park Pool in Williamsburg, Brooklyn; Cynthia Berkshire for her beloved Delphie, a misunderstood housewife set on uncovering her true self; Tai Dang for Tangle a multi-media site specific piece performed at 55 Water St; Laurie Stallings for her piece "The Great Quiet" performed at the Performing Arts Center in Purchase, New York; Kate Hutters for both "Unnecessary Drama for the Melodramatic" at Ailey Citigroup Theater and "Passion Plays" performed at The Dance Theater Lab in Purchase, New York. Emily has had the pleasure of working with Nelly Van Bommel/NOA dance for a show at The Cunningham Studio; and acclaimed Spanish choreographer Asun Noales for "Three Thoughts for a Place" presented at the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase, New York; in addition to touring with Ballet Idaho/Eugene Ballet for their 2002-2003 season.

Emily is from Idaho and is a graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts and holds her BFA from SUNY Purchase. She currently enjoying working with Eclectix and Anabella Lenzu Dance/Drama.

**Jerami Kipp** is a native of Auburn New York, and has been surrounded by the arts and performance his entire life. Jerami is an accomplished dancer, African hand drummer, martial artist, and performer, having had incredible opportunities to perform around the country. Recently at SUNY Purchase, Jerami danced in the

premiere of "Bittersweet," choreography of Molly Faye Gawler and "Cheza Ngoma" choreographed by Joy Voelker, also performed at the PepsiCo Performing Arts Center (Drumming Arrangement by Jerami Kipp and Joy Voelker). Jerami accepted an invitation and joined the Eclectix Dance Company as a special guest artist for the New York performance of "A Muse" Performed at: The Gershwin Hotel in NYC in April, and will continue his stint with the company for performances at New Dance Group Theater May 18 and 19, 2007. Mr. Kipp will also return to the Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre June 9th, at New York City's famed Ailey Citigroup Theater, as it joins the Tina Thompson Dance Theater for ECCENTRICA!: An evening of dance that will also honor the award-winning choreography of Sean McLeod,

Jerami has studied dance under guidance of, and mentored by, dance masters Sean McLeod, Thomas Warfield, Noah Racey, Cleo Parker Robinson, Gregory Livingston, Assane Kante, and numerous others. Likewise, Jerami studied African hand drumming first under the tutelage of Jim Donovan of Rusted Root, then extensively with Drum Master Etse Nyadedzor from Accra Ghana, and additionally with Elie Kihonia, Master Drummer from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mr. Kipp performed as a drummer and dancer for the International Drummer and Dancer Tour with Jim Donovan, and multi award winning International Producer and Choreographer Sean McLeod. Jerami has appeared with the Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre as an apprentice, and also performed extensively as a principal with the New York Dance Ensemble, having original works set on him.

**Lee McClure's** oeuvre includes two operas with librettist Ron Whyte, a symphony, and numerous choral and chamber works. The Eclectix Chamber Orchestra's premiere of McClure's HIATUS was praised by The New York Times critic Tim Page who declared it *"was probably the most distinguished piece on the program: the harmonies had bite and the musical ideas seemed both organic and Mr. McClure's own."* In a 12 year collaboration with playwright-librettist Ron Whyte, McClure created music for art and theater songs, choral works, and two operas. (Whyte's plays have starred such talents as Ellen Burstyn and been performed in six languages around the world.) Reviewing the premiere of the Whyte and McClure opera, MOTHER AND CHILD, at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine, Bernard Holland wrote in The New York Times *"Mr. McClure's music is...eclectic...from Broadway to sentimental pop ballad to angry instrumental harmonies to a recitative style that at times implies total dissonance. ...this is truly an embryo of a production waiting to be born."* The Gregg Smith Singers have premiered three of Lee McClure's choral compositions, including his LITANY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. The string quartet, *Invert*, premiered Lee McClure's jazz-classical crossover piece, NIGHT SHIFTS, at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, NYC.

Over the past ten years McClure has been developing a large repertoire of works which he performs on the electric flute which he has designed. McClure's CD of originals and re-compositions of Bach, Ravel and Coltrane can be heard at [www.towerrecords.com](http://www.towerrecords.com). He has performed with the Tom Blatt Project at the Knitting Factory, and since 1995 has been performing with accordionist William Schimmel. He was the featured performer at the 1997 Electro-Acoustic Music

Festival at Brooklyn College, and was a member of the Interactive Performance Group at NYU. McClure was commissioned three times to compose and perform for the Janet Gerson Dance Company. In 2003 he performed in the Montclair (NJ) Tourbaby Festival and in 2006 for the Artists For Humanity dance concert at the Community Church of NY

McClure, a native of San Francisco and resident of NYC since the early 70's, is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College where he received a B.S. in Music Composition. A recipient of numerous ASCAP Special Awards, McClure's compositions have been performed by the Old First Orchestra of San Francisco, the Saturday Brass Quintet, and he has received commissions from the King David Orchestra and the Breve Trio. Among McClure's major works are VOICE, his second opera, SYMPHONY NO.1 for Jazz drummer and orchestra, INVOCATION for Jazz vocal octet, and the Suite From THE VOYAGE for four-hand-piano. As an author he was invited to present his essay "The Separation of Art and Society" at the Society of Composers Inc.'s 1997 national conference in Miami. At Touro College McClure created and taught a survey course on American Music.



The Eclectix Dance Company is most pleased to be performing at the New Dance Group Arts Center, and we would like to thank Artistic Director Rick Schussel and all the staff who have been most helpful in making sure all aspects of the performance were taken care of.

Eclectix performances are made possible in part by a grant from the Ed Lee & Jean Campe Foundation and friends and supporters of Eclectix. A deep gratitude is extended to Chashama and the Walker Sound Stage which provided rehearsal space where some the electric flute music was developed. Thanks is also given to Lenny Charles for his sound and video recording of the performance.

Interested dancers and choreographers should contact Eclectix.

To make an even balance, Eclectix would have to charge \$50 a ticket. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to the Eclectix Chamber Orchestra, Inc. (which is the parent corporation of the Eclectix Dance Company.) Eclectix is a not-for-profit corporation, and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Inquires may be made to:

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